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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant: Mark Budzik )  
Application: 10/685,750 ) Gay Spahn  
Filing Date: October 15, 2003 ) Patent Examiner  
Docket No.: TRI4546P0170US ) Art Unit 3763

**REPLY BRIEF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

You are requested to charge any fee due for filing this Reply Brief to Deposit Account No. 23-0785. You are requested to consider the following argument, which is prompted by a statement found on page 12 of the Examiner's Answer.

On page 12 of the Examiner's Answer, it is stated that "... HOFFMAN, SR. found a solution to this problem by milling or abrading or knurling or otherwise roughening the surface of the corner strip (col. 2, lines 19-22) in order to 'increase the surface area and to facilitate the ability of construction adhesives and drywall compound to adhere to the surface of the strip.'"

Expressly, Hoffman, Sr., teaches in column 2, lines 19-22, that "[a]long with the formation of the crease, the strip is perforated and knurled to increase the surface area and to facilitate the ability of construction adhesives and drywall compound to adhere to the surface of the strip." Consequently, the statement quoted above from page 12 of the Examiner's Answer is not supported by what Hoffman, Sr., actually teaches in the referenced lines.

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Clearly, forming a crease in a cover strip, perforating a cover strip, and knurling a surface of the cover strip do not encompass milling or abrading or otherwise roughening the surface of the corner strip. Further, there is no evidence in the record that, if a cellular polymer were used, such forming, perforating, and knurling steps would cause an expansive surface to be characterized by open cells of the cellular polymer.

Respectfully submitted,

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